

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

**S E R V I C E S**

**Hillview House, West Street,  
Newbury, West Berkshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Jo Pine and Andrew Weale**

**Site Code: WSN10/01**

**(SU 4700 6740)**

# **Hillview House, West Street, Newbury, West Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for Bewley Homes plc**

by Jo Pine and Andrew Weale  
Thames Valley Archaeological Services  
Ltd

Site Code WSN10/01

**January 2010**

## Summary

**Site name:** Hillview House, West Street, Newbury, West Berkshire

**Grid reference:** SU 4700 6740

**Site activity:** Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 7th–12th January 2010

**Project manager:** Jo Pine

**Site supervisors:** Jo Pine and Andrew Weale

**Site code:** WSN10/01

**Area of site:** 0.21ha

**Summary of results:** The trenching revealed that the site has high archaeological potential for medieval and post-medieval deposits which are well preserved beneath more recent made ground. Deeper deposits represent a complex series of alluvial layers including thick deposits of peat, possibly infilling a palaeochannel. These have high potential for palaeoenvironmental reconstruction. No finds of mesolithic date were recorded though the relevant levels were very deep and only partially explored.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at West Berkshire Museum in due course.

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# **Hillview House, West Street, Newbury, West Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation**

by Andrew Weale and Jo Pine

**Report 10/01**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land at Hillview House, West Street, Newbury, West Berkshire (SU 4700 6740) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Stevan Wright of Bewley Homes, Inhurst House, Brimpton Road, Baughurst, Hampshire, RG26 5JJ.

Planning consent (07/02666/FULEXT) has been gained from West Berkshire Council on appeal (APP/W0340/A/08/2073756) for redevelopment of the 0.21ha site. The consent is subject to a condition (14) relating to archaeology.

The consent is subject to a condition (14), requiring a programme of archaeological investigation prior to development. This was to take the form, initially, of a field evaluation by means of machine trenching. Based on the results of this investigation, a scheme could then be devised to mitigate the effects of the development on any archaeological remains, as appropriate. This is in accordance with *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16, 1990) and the Council's policies on archaeology.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Duncan Coe, Archaeological Officer for West Berkshire Council, and was monitored by him and Ms Sarah Orr on behalf of West Berkshire Council. The fieldwork was supervised by Jo Pine and Andrew Weale, assisted in the field by Steve Crabb. The fieldwork took place between 7th and 12th January 2010 and the site code is WSN10/01. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at West Berkshire Museum in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located at the northern end of Newbury town centre, near the old boundary between Newbury and the suburb of Speenhamland, on an irregular parcel of land (0.21ha) to the south of West Street (Figs 1 and 2). At the time of the evaluation, the site was occupied by Hillview House, a modern office building. The remaining areas were in use as Tarmacked car parks and out-buildings. The site is bounded to the south by a car park, to the east and west by offices and light industrial buildings and to the north by residential buildings and West Street.



The site is generally flat at around 76m above Ordnance Datum. The natural geology in the area is mapped as alluvium above gravel (BGS 1971) which, together with peat, was observed within three of the trenches.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the area stems from the location of the site on the fringes of the historic core of medieval and post-medieval Newbury and an area of dense prehistoric occupation on the floor of the Kennet Valley (WBAS 2006). This location has been demonstrated as being prolific in the presence of Mesolithic occupation sites and stray finds (Froom 1971) with material recovered from relatively close by (Sheridan *et al.* 1967). Peat and alluvial deposits including a peat-filled river palaeochannel were observed at Northcroft Lane *c.* 100m to the south-west (Ford 2002)

Newbury, or the ‘new market town’ is not mentioned in Domesday Book (AD1086) but is mentioned in a grant dating to *c.* 1080 (Astill 1978), and may have been preceded by a large Saxon manor (*Ulvritone*). The location and extent of the pre-Norman settlement has not been ascertained.

The town prospered in Medieval and early post-medieval times (Astill 1978) largely based on the wool trade. Evaluation at 53 Northbrook Street, *c.* 100m to the north, uncovered two pits, one dated to the Medieval period, and a structure consisting of a wall and floor of unknown date. Post-medieval landfill was also noted overlying waterlogged deposits and a possible channel (Hammond 2007). Recent excavations in the Parkway revealed medieval property boundaries and back-land settlement activity. These included a ditch and fence boundaries dating from the late 12th century, and leather tanning pits of later medieval date. These were sealed by 1.5m of soil, which was dumped to raise the ground above what was considered a wet, low-lying area.

The development site lies on what is thought to be the margins of the medieval town, close to the boundary with the separate historic parish/settlement of Speenhamland. The line of the Speenhamland ditch, one of the main historic drainage features, could run across the site, and waterlogged deposits might be present.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development. This work was to be carried out in a manner which would not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which might warrant preservation *in situ*, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

The specific research aims of this project are:

to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;

to determine the presence and character of any Mesolithic deposits present;

to examine whether any evidence exists on the site for the Domesday settlement of *Ulvritone*;

to examine whether evidence exist on the site to assist with the dating of the laying out of the medieval town;

to examine whether evidence for Speenhamland as a separate settlement survives and if so what does it tell us about the nature of this settlement; and

to determine whether deposits relating to post-medieval industrial activities are present on the site.

## **Methodology**

It was proposed to dig six trenches, each 10m long and 1.6m wide (*c.* 4.5% of the site area). The trenches would be located to give as full spatial coverage of the site as was possible at the time of the works. A contingency for a further 5m of trenching was included, should this have been required to clarify the results of the initial trenching.

Tarmac, made ground, overburden, soil dumps, alluvial and fluvial deposits were removed by a JCB-type machine under direct archaeological supervision. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were cleaned using appropriate hand tools. Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the brief, without compromising the ability to preserve important remains *in situ* (as set out above). A programme of environmental sampling was to take place should sufficient significant, well-stratified deposits be located. Provision was made to recover samples from stratigraphic horizons considered to be of Mesolithic date.

## **Results**

All six trenches were excavated (Fig. 3), however the positions of the trenches varied from those proposed within the brief. A trench proposed to the east of Hillview House was relocated to the west due to lack of machine access. The other trench positions were changed to maintain vehicular access to the site for other contactors conducting demolition of Hillview House. These changes were undertaken in consultation with Ms Sarah Orr of West Berkshire Council. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

The stratigraphy of the trenches was complex due to the urban context of the field investigation, the medieval deposits observed and also the fluvial depositional nature of the layers encountered beneath the post-medieval soil dumps.

#### Trench 1 (Figs 4 and 6, Pl. 1)

This trench was 10m long aligned north-south. The stratigraphy of the trench was Tarmac, scalpings and crushed concrete 0.50m deep overlying a dark greyish brown clayey silt deposit (51). This was 0.60m deep in the south and shallower to the north (0.30m deep). It contained two sherds of willow pattern/blue willow transfer printed pottery and one sherd of yellow and brown combed slip ware of a late 18th to early 19th century date, brick and tile fragments (not retained) and oyster shell. This had been truncated by a post-medieval or modern feature (8) observed at the southern end of the trench. Stratigraphically below layer 51 were four late post-medieval pits (1, 2, 3 and 4). These contained willow pattern/blue willow transfer ware brown glazed red ware sherds of late 18th century or later date, mortar and brick rubble (not retained) and a piece of slate. These pits cut a soil dump (52) between 0.30–0.40m deep, of dark greyish brown clayey silt with moderate charcoal and occasional tile. The pottery recovered was an English Stoneware sherd of 1680 or later, together with animal bone.

Below this was a friable mid brown grey clayey silt layer (54) which was between 0.10–0.20m deep. This contained chalk flecks, charcoal, a single sherd of medieval Surrey White Ware and a clay tobacco pipe stem (from its surface); unless it has been pressed in from above, the clay pipe indicates a post-medieval date for this deposit.

This deposit sealed a complex of archaeological cut features, not all were excavated but sufficient excavated and examined to satisfy the aims of the project (Fig. 4).

Towards the south of the trench, pit 5 was 1.20m in diameter and although not excavated the fill exposed was a friable mid brownish grey clayey silt with chalk flecks and charcoal. Four sherds of medieval pottery and 5 small pieces of tile were recovered from its surface. It truncated a light grey clayey silt deposit (79) which appeared to overlie a calcareous silt likely to be redeposited tufa (55).

At the far south of the trench this layer 55 was overlain by mid brown grey clayey silt (72). This contained charcoal, chalk flecks, flint nodules and tile fragments and may be a fill of an undefined feature.

Two pits 6 and 7 were recorded cutting another feature, ditch 12. Pit 6, although not seen fully in plan, was 2.60m N–S and over 0.70m E–W and at least 0.10m deep (the pit was partially excavated). It contained dark brown grey clayey silt with frequent charcoal and chalk flecks (60). Four fragments of medieval pottery were retrieved from this, as well as animal bone, brick/tile and oyster shell. Pit 7, although again not seen fully in plan,

was 1.40m N–S and over 0.50m E–W. It contained dark brown grey clayey silt with frequent charcoal and chalk flecks (61); only one fragment of ceramic building material was recovered from the surface.

Both these pits cut ditch 12 aligned on an approximate E–W alignment and 3.2m wide. A slot excavated through it showed it to be 0.20m deep with mid grey brown clayey silt with chalk and charcoal flecks (59) (Fig. 6 and Pl. 2). Two sherds of medieval pottery of late 11th–late 14th century date were recovered from this deposit, together with six pieces of animal bone.

At the northern end of the trench was a deposit (69) which was brownish grey clayey silt from which tile fragments were recovered. This was truncated by a probable pit 11. Again not seen fully in plan, it was 1.8m N–S and over 0.40m E–W and at least 0.10m deep (the pit was partially excavated). It contained dark brown grey clayey silt with frequent charcoal and chalk flecks (70). Two fragments of medieval pottery were retrieved from this deposit, together with animal bone, oyster shell and brick/tile.

Ditch 12 and deposits 69, 72 and 79 were all stratigraphically above a calcareous white silt layer (redeposited? Tufa) (55). A test pit through this showed this to be at least 0.20m deep and this overlay a thin band of peat (92) (sample 1) which in turn overlay brown silty sand (93) and a fine grained sand (94). These deposits indicate a riparian/fluvial depositional environment.

#### Trench 2 (Figs 4 and 6)

This trench was 10m long aligned SE–NW and 1.50m deep at the south end and 1.90m deep at the north. The stratigraphy of the trench was shown to be Tarmac, scalpins and crushed concrete 0.30m deep overlying thin modern made ground layers (63) and (64) each *c.* 0.10m in depth (Fig. 6). Below deposit 64 was a dark greyish brown clayey silt layer (66), which was cut by late post-medieval pit (10). Layer 66 was *c.* 0.60m deep becoming deeper to the north and is the same deposit as layer 51 in Trench 1. It contained moderate brick and tile fragments, animal bone and oyster shell. Below layer 66 a late post-medieval pit (9) was recorded. This contained mortar and brick rubble (not retained). This pit in turn cut a soil dump (67) the same deposit as layer 52 in Trench 1. This was 0.30m deep, becoming deeper to the north to *c.* 0.50m. No dateable artefacts were recovered from this deposit. Below this was a friable mid brown grey clayey silt layer (71), between 0.10 and 0.20m deep, which equates to layer 54 in Trench 1. This contained chalk flecks and charcoal.

Layer 71 was mostly cut by archaeological cut features but overlay a further feature (18) and other deposits at the northern end of the trench. However, due to the depth at which these were present they were not excavated, which was agreed in consultation with Ms Orr. These features include probable pits (13–17), in which charcoal was observed. On the surface of pit 16 some brick/tile was also noted. There appears to be some stratigraphy with pit 16 appearing in plan to cut pit 17 and 15 to cut 14. Pit 17 in turn truncated brown silt

deposit (80) which contained wood fragments and appeared alluvial. At the northern end of the trench below layer 71 and cutting redeposited Tufa (80) (similar in appearance to deposit 55 in Trench 1) and a peat deposit (95) was a ditch (18). Again due to depth this being at 1.90m below the present surface, this feature was not excavated but it was 0.70m wide and ceramic building material, flint and bone were noted in its fill (78), but not recovered.

#### Trench 3 (Fig. 5)

This was 10.4m long aligned west-east and 4.20m deep in the east but only 1.65m deep in the west. The stratigraphy of the trench was shown to be Tarmac, scalpings and crushed concrete 0.41m deep overlying modern/19th-century made ground layer (153) c. 0.51m in depth (Fig. 7). Below deposit 153 was a dark greyish brown clayey silt layer (154), which was cut by late post-medieval pit (23). Layer 153 was c. 0.40m deep and may be the same deposit as layer 51 in Trench 1, it also contained ceramic building material, oyster shell, mortar and charcoal but no pottery was observed within it. Cut through layer 154 was a late post-medieval pit (23) which was approximately 1m in diameter and 3.1m deep. It contained mortar and brick rubble (not retained) to a depth of 2.6m with a gravel deposit below. Below layer 154 was a friable mid brown grey clayey silt layer (155) which appears to equate to layer 54 in Trench 1. This was between 0.15–0.20m deep and contained chalk flecks, charcoal flecks with fragments of oyster shell. Cut into this layer was a post medieval pit 24, which was approximately 0.5m in diameter and 0.10m deep which contained a dump of roof tile fragments (not retained). Below layer 155 was a mixed gravel with a mid to dark silty sand layer (156). The gravel was noted to contain charcoal flecks and smears and small fragments of brick/tile.

Cut into the gravel layer (156) were two probable pits (20 and 21) and a possible posthole (22), however due to the depth of the trench these were not excavated, which was agreed in consultation with the council monitor Ms Orr. Charcoal and brick smears were observed on the surface of pit 21, but no dateable evidence was recovered from these features. Pit 20 was 1.3m E–W and 0.5m N–S. Pit 21 was 0.9m E–W and 0.6m N–S whilst posthole 22 was approximately 0.3m in diameter.

A machine-excavated test pit was excavated at the east end of Trench 3 in the area of post medieval pit 23 to examine the depth of underlying layers (Fig 7). Gravel layer 156 was found to be a maximum of 0.36m thick under which was mid to dark brown peat (157) which contained occasional branches and twigs. The peat contained very occasional lenses of clay, sand or gravel (<5% of the peat) (sample 2). The peat continued to a depth of 4.2m below the Tarmac at which depth it passed the reach of the machine without any change noted. The great depth of the peat within trench 3 may indicate the presence of a palaeochannel in this area.

#### Trench 4

This was 10.5m long aligned roughly west-east and between 2.72m (east) and 0.34m (west) deep. The stratigraphy of the trench was shown to be Tarmac, scalpings and crushed concrete 0.28m deep (Fig. 7 and Pl. 3). Beneath this was a concrete screed layer 0.06m thick. Cut through this concrete layer from an iron inspection cover at the west end of the trench to 4.4m from the west end was an active water service. The concrete screed overlay modern or 19th-century made ground (88) c. 0.36m in depth: this layer appeared similar to layer 51 in trench 1. Truncating this layer and the layers beneath to a depth of 1.26m below Tarmac was post-medieval pit 19. The pit was 1.2m E-W and the full width of the Trench. It contained four sherds of willow pattern/blue willow transfer printed pottery, moderate brick and a fragment of glazed roof ridge tile and charcoal.

Beneath layer 88 was soil dump (89) which appears to be similar to deposit (52) in Trench 1 and was a maximum of 0.15m thick. Layer 89 was observed to have less brick/tile than layer 52, as well as occasional oyster shell but no animal bone or pottery. Below this was a friable mid brown grey clayey silt layer (96) which was between 0.12m deep and appeared to be similar to layer 54 in trench 1. This contained chalk flecks, charcoal, tile and fragments of brick from its surface. Pit 19 truncated all the layers down to the layer beneath 96, which was a calcareous silt likely redeposited tufa (97), similar to layer 55 in trench 1.

Layer 97 was 0.40m thick and overlay what appeared to be a sequence of riparian/fluvial deposits (Fig. 7). The first of these was a layer of grey brown sand with peaty lenses 0.53m thick (98). Beneath the sand layer was 0.39m thick deposit (99) light grey silty clay with occasional small lenses of gravel and sand. The clay layer overlay up to 0.31m of peat (150) which appeared similar to (157) in trench 3. The peat overlay up to 0.11m of a white to light grey clay (151) with no inclusions, which in turn overlay a mixed grey sand and gravel (152) which contained the local water table and was thought to be the natural geology. A machine sondage of approximately 0.10m deep was excavated through the gravel but no artefacts were observed within it.

#### Trench 5 (Figs 5 and 7; Pls 2 and 4)

This trench was 10.2m long, aligned roughly north-south and between 2.8m (S) and 1.4m (N) deep. The stratigraphy of the trench was shown to be Tarmac, scalpings and crushed concrete 0.28m deep. Between 2m from the south end to 3.4m a water service on a similar line to the one encountered in Trench 4 was encountered beneath the crushed concrete. This was treated as live and divided the trench into two segments.

Within the southern part of the trench, beneath the crushed concrete was a layer (176) of dark greyish brown clayey silt deposit 0.43m thick and appeared similar in nature to (51) in Trench 1. This layer contained a higher proportion of crushed brick/tile and mortar and did not appear to contain any pottery. Beneath this layer

was wall 164 which entered the trench at the south-east corner for a distance of 0.35m and returned along the eastern edge of the trench for a distance of 2m. The wall was made up of modern unfrosted bricks together with a yellow sandy mortar and was laid in a stretcher bond. There appeared to be 19 or 20 courses of brick within the wall. Within the remainder of the trench, beneath 164 was deposit 177, a mixed dark grey sandy silt with moderate amounts of brick/tile fragments, mortar and charcoal to a depth of 2.1m below the Tarmac. Beneath deposit 177 was banded yellow and brownish yellow sand (180), up to 0.7m thick and beneath layer 180 was gravel natural geology (181) and local water table. These last two layers appeared to be fluvial deposits.

Wall 164 collapsed into the trench revealing loose light grey sandy silt with frequent brick, tile, mortar and metallic objects (165). Wall 164 appeared to be a backfilled deep cellar, and deposit 177 may be the back fill of a construction cut for the cellar although no edge was seen within the trench.

Within the northern part of the trench beneath the modern made ground was layer 159 dark greyish brown clayey silt with moderate charcoal and occasional tile and oyster shell, 0.30m thick. In appearance this layer was similar to 52 in trench 1. Stratigraphically below layer 159 was a late post-medieval pit (26). This contained a sherd of blue and brown transfer ware of late 19th or 20th century date, a sherd of white glazed ware, as well as mortar and brick rubble which were not retained. This pit truncated layer 160, friable mid brown grey clayey silt layer which was between 0.42 and 0.53m deep. This contained chalk flecks, charcoal and was similar to layer 54 in Trench 1.

Stratigraphically below layer 160 was layer 161, calcareous yellowish white silt (redeposited? Tufa) layer between 0.25 and 0.35m deep in the northern portion of the trench. Beneath this layer was a peat layer (162) up to 0.26m deep in the middle to north proportion of the trench.

Stratigraphically below layer 162 was a medieval pit (25). Pit 25 entered the trench at 3.6m from the south end on the eastern edge of the trench and continued across the trench to 5.7m from the south end on the western edge and was a maximum of 0.20m deep. It contained dark brown grey clayey silt with frequent charcoal and chalk flecks (91), one fragments of medieval sandy ware pottery, together with ceramic building material and oyster shell. Pit 25 truncated layer (163) a second calcareous white silt (redeposited Tufa) layer, this layer was between 1.75m below Tarmac at its southern extent dropping to 2.10m below Tarmac in the middle of the trench.

#### Trench 6 (Fig. 7)

This was 10.2m long aligned roughly north-south and between 2.8m (south) and 1.4m (north) deep. The stratigraphy of the trench was shown to be Tarmac, scalpins and crushed concrete 0.41m deep. Under the

crushed concrete layer between 7.9m and 8.2m from the south end of the trench was a modern service cut that contained a ducted cable, this cut truncated the under laying layers into layer 167. Due to the presence of this service and another running down the eastern edge of the trench in the northern 2m the northern part of the trench was not fully excavated.

Beneath the crushed concrete was a dark greyish brown clayey silt deposit (166) 0.43m thick and similar in nature to layer 51 in Trench 1, containing brick/tile mortar, oyster shell slate but no pottery (not retained). Stratigraphically below layer 166 was a post-medieval wall (175) perpendicular to the trench between 6.6m and 6.9m from the southern end. Wall 175 survived as five courses of frogged brick with a sandy yellow mortar in a stretcher bond, two bricks wide with a gap of 230mm between them. Wall 175 lay within construction cut 28 that was filled with a deposit (178) that appeared to be similar to layer 166 that sealed the wall. Construction cut 28 truncated layer 167, calcareous yellowish white silt (redeposited? Tufa) layer, this layer was between 0.28–0.35m thick and appeared to be similar to layer 161 in Trench 5. Beneath layer 167, was layer (168), mid to dark brown silty clay with moderated amounts of peaty material within it and was up to a maximum of 0.09m thick. Beneath layer 168 was layer (169), calcareous white silt (redeposited? Tufa) which varied between 0.65 and 0.78m thick and appeared to be similar to layer 163 in Trench 5.

Beneath this were a sequence that appeared to be fluvial/alluvial in nature (Fig. 7). Directly below layer 169 was layer (170) brown to black peat with occasional sand and gravel lenses up to 0.15m thick. Beneath the peat of layer 170 was layer (171) white to whitish grey silty clay with occasional sand up to 0.10m thick. Beneath the clay layer 171, was layer (172) a brown to black peat with few inclusions up to 0.45m thick. Layer 172 had a ‘rotten egg’ smell and it appeared to be similar to layer 157 in trench 3. Beneath peat layer 173 was a white to light grey clay (173) with no inclusions up to 0.32m thick. Layer 173 appeared to be similar to layer 151 in trench 4. Beneath clay layer 173 was a mixed gravel and grey sand layer (174) that was thought to be natural geology.

## **Finds**

### *Medieval Pottery* by Paul Blinkhorn

The medieval pottery assemblage comprised 14 sherds with a total weight of 224g. The bulk of the material indicates that there was activity at the site during that period from the late 11th – mid/late 13th century. The following fabric types were noted:



**F202:** Newbury 'A/B' ware. Late 11th–late 14th century (Mephram 1997, 51-2). A range of sand-, flint- and limestone-tempered wares. Sparse to moderate limestone up to 2mm, rounded white or clear quartz up to 0.5mm, angular fragments of white, grey or black flint. Jars bowls and pitchers. 11 sherds, 94g.

**F300:** Medieval Sandy ware, Late 11th–14th century? Dense sub-rounded white, grey and clear quartz up to 0.5 mm. Early medieval pottery types similar to this are found along a considerable length of the middle Thames Valley and its hinterland, and the problem of differentiating between the numerous different wares has been noted in the past (Mellor 1994, 84). 1 sherd, 10g.

**F356:** Surrey Whiteware, mid 13th–mid 15th century (Pearce and Vince 1988). A range of whitewares from several sources in Surrey, including Kingston and Cheam. Range of vessel forms which changes over time, but the earlier assemblages are dominated by glazed jugs, some with slipped, incised and plastic decoration. 1 sherd, 5g.

**F429:** English Stoneware. 1680 onwards. Hard, grey fabric, often with a brown, iron-rich exterior wash. Range of utilitarian vessels, particularly mugs 1 sherd, 115g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Appendix 3. The fabric types are all well-known on the region. The sherds were all plain bodysherds, apart from a single Newbury ware jar rim.

### *Post-medieval pottery by Andrew Weale*

The post-medieval pottery assemblage comprised 20 sherds with a total weight of 2139g. The bulk of the material was transfer printed willow pattern which was manufactured from the late 18th century though to the present. Also present were two sherds of white glazed creamware, one sherd of blue and brown slipware, a single sherd of brown and yellow combed slipware, a single sherd of brown glazed red ware, a single sherd of brown glazed cream ware, all of which would have an 18th century date or later. The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Appendix 4.

### *Animal Bone by Andrew Weale*

Thirteen fragments of animal bone were recovered from five contexts (post-medieval layer 52 and medieval pits 6, 11, 12 and 25) weighting a total of 458g. The animal bone occurrence by number and weight per context is shown in Appendix 5.

### *Ceramic Building Material* by Andrew Weale

Thirty fragments of brick and tile were recovered from 10 contexts (layers 52, 59, 69, 72, Pits 5, 6, 7, 11, 19 and 25) weighting a total of 1934g. The majority appeared to be roof tile including one large fragment of glazed ridge tile from pit 19. The ridge tile had a circular top with a dark greyish glaze. The brick/tile occurrence by number and weight per context is shown in Appendix 6.

### *Clay tobacco pipe* by Andrew Weale

One piece of stem was recovered from layer 54 weighing 5g. It can only be given a broadly post-medieval date.

### *Oyster shell* by Andrew Weale

The remains of four oyster shells were recovered from three contexts (pits 6, 11 and 25) weighing a total of 43g.

### *Stone* by Andrew Weale

One piece of slate weighing 81g was recovered from pit 3.

### *Environmental Samples* by Andrew Weale and Jo pine

Soil samples of the peaty layers were taken and a rapid assessment of their environmental potential made. Soil sample 1 was taken from layer 92 in Trench 1 of approximately 1 litre. Under 10 times magnification this sample was shown to contain small elements of biological material such as leaf fragments and rootlets within a silt matrix. The sample did not display any noticeable odour and although waterlogged, organic preservation was moderate.

Sample 2 was taken from layer 157 in Trench 3 of approximately 5 litres. Under ten times magnification this sample was shown to contain large elements of biological material such as bark, small branches, twigs, leaves, grasses and possibly the remains of reeds, there was a small silty inorganic component. The sample exhibited slight hydrogen sulphide odour when freshly broken. The sample was heavily waterlogged and the organic preservation within this sample was high.

## Conclusions

The evaluation has been successful in indicating the site has high archaeological potential for remains of both medieval and post-medieval dates. Of the six trenches, four revealed the survival of a density of medieval archaeology (numerous pits and likely ditches) sealed and protected by soil dumps and made ground at least 1m thick. The features contained well-preserved pottery and tile fragments and charcoal was observed. Given the fact that many of these features cut into waterlogged deposits the likely survival of organic remains is high. One area of the site around the southern end of Trench 5 showed an area of deep post-medieval truncation in the form of a cellar, it is like that any medieval remains have been removed from this portion of the site. Unexpectedly, trench 6 which lies close to West Street, did not reveal any medieval deposits.

The trenches also importantly, have revealed a complex sequence of alluvial deposition, redeposited tufas, sands and peats and the presence of a likely peat-filled relict channel. The depth of peat within Trench 3 coupled with the shallow peat deposits and underlying gravel natural within Trenches 4, 5 and 6 may indicate that the channel occupies the centre of the site rising out to the west. Bulk samples taken from the peat deposits indicate good organic preservation and, like other locations nearby (eg Ford 2002) should be expected to have high potential for palaeoenvironmental reconstruction.

One objective of the evaluation exercise, that of the potential for Mesolithic occupation was not fully achieved, as to do so would have meant removal of the overlying medieval deposits. However, in the few locations where the natural geology (sand/gravel) was exposed, no mesolithic finds were recovered.

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## APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S or W end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	10.0	1.6	S=1.60 N=1.25	0-0.07m Tarmac; 0.07-0.26m Scalpins; 0.26-0.36m crushed concrete; 0.36-0.68m made ground (51); 0.68-1.17m layer (52); 1.17-1.30m layer (53); 1.30-1.55m redeposit tufa (?) (55); 1.55-1.66m peat (92); 1.66-1.75 sand (93). Pits 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11 and ditch 12 <b>[Plate 1]</b>
2	10.0	1.6	S=1.50 N=1.90	0-0.09m tarmac; 0.09-0.24m Scalpins; 0.26-0.33 crushed concrete; 0.33-0.44m layer (63); 0.44-0.53 layer (64); 0.53-1.08 layer (66); 1.08-1.40m layer (67); 1.40-1.56m layer (71); 1.56-1.80 layer (80); 1080-1.90m+ Peat (95); Pits 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, Linear 18
3	10.4	1.6	W=1.65 E=4.2	0-0.09 Tarmac; 0.09-0.19 Scalpins; 0.19-0.40 crushed concrete; 0.40-0.91 layer (153); 0.91-1.27m layer (154); 1.27-1.44m layer (155); gravel layer (156); 1.90-4.20m peat (channel?); Pits 20, 21, 23, 24 post hole 22(?)
4	10.5	1.6	2.72	0-0.07m Tarmac; 0.07-0.11m Scalpins; 0.11-0.27m crushed concrete; 0.27-0.33m concrete screed; 0.33-0.70m layer (88); 0.70-0.8m layer (89); 0.85-0.97m layer (96); 0.97-1.38m layer (97); 1.38-1.89m layer (98); 1.89-2.24m Peat (99); 2.24-2.41m clay (150); 2.41-2.72+ gravel nature geology. Pit 19 <b>[Plate 3]</b>
5	10.2	1.6	S=2.80 N=1.25	0-0.09m Tarmac; 0.09-0.20 Scalpins; 0.20-0.51m Crushed concrete; 0.51-0.84m layer (159); 0.84-1.40 layer (160); 1.40-1.79 redeposited tufa (?) (161); 1.79-2.10 peat (162); 2.10-2.78 sand (163); 2.78+ gravel natural. Pits 25, 26, Cellar 164. Truncation 27. <b>[Plates 2 and 4]</b>
6	10.2	1.6	S=1.60 N=1.25	0-0.10m Tarmac; 0.10-0.15m Scalpins; 0.15-0.24m crushed concrete; 0.24-0.62m layer (166); 0.62-0.85m layer (167); 0.85-0.95m layer (168); 0.95-1.70m redeposited tufa (?) (169); 1.70-1.93m peat (170); 1.93-2.05 clay (171); 2.05-2.56 peat (172); 2.56-2.86 clay (173); 2.86-3.20+m gravel (174) natural geology. Wall 175 construction cut 28

## APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating Evidence</i>
1		51	Layer	18th century or later	Pottery
1		52	Layer	17th century or later	Pottery
1	1	53	Pit	18th century or later	Pottery
1		54	Layer	Post-Medieval	Clay pipe
1		55	Redeposited tufa	Medieval or earlier	Stratigraphy
1	3	56	Pit	18th century or later	Pottery
1	4	57	Pit	18th century or later	Pottery
1	5	58	Pit	11th-14th century	Pottery
1	12	59	Linear	11th-14th century	Pottery
1	6	60	Pit	11th-14th century	Pottery
1	7	61	Pit	14th century or later	Stratigraphy
1	8	62	Pit	18th century or later	Pottery
1		69	Layer	Pre-14th century	Stratigraphy
1	11	70	Pit	11th-14th century	Pottery
1		72	Deposit	Unknown	None
1		79	Layer	Pre-14th century	Stratigraphy
1		92	Peat	Unknown	None
1		93	Sand	Unknown	None
1		94	Sand	Unknown	None
1	2	179	Pit	Unknown	None
2		63	Layer	Unknown	None
2		64	Layer	Unknown	None
2	9	65	Pit	Unknown	None
2		66	Layer	18th century or later	same as 51
2		67	Layer	17th century or later	same as 52
2	10	68	Pit	Late post-medieval/modern	Stratigraphy
2		71	Layer	Post-Medieval	same as 54
2	13	73	Pit	Unknown	None
2	14	74	Pit	Unknown	None
2	15	75	Pit	Unknown	None
2	16	76	Pit	Unknown	None
2	17	77	Pit	Unknown	None
2	18	78	Ditch	Unknown	None
2		80	Deposit	Unknown	None
2		95	Peat	Unknown	None
3	20	83	Pit	Unknown	None
3	21	84	Pit	Unknown	None
3	22	85	Posthole	Unknown	None
3	23	86	Pit	Unknown	None
3	24	87	Pit	Unknown	None
3		153	Layer	18th century or later	same as 51
3		154	Layer	Unknown	None
3		155	Layer	Post-Medieval	same as 54
3		156	Redeposited gravel	Unknown	None
3		157	Peat	Unknown	None
4	19	81	Pit	18th century or later	Pottery
4		82	Peat	Unknown	None
4		88	Layer	18th century or later	same as 51
4		89	Layer	17th century or later	same as 52
4		96	Layer	Post-Medieval	same as 54
4		97	Redeposited tufa	Medieval or earlier	same as 55
4		98	sand	Medieval or earlier	Stratigraphy
4		99	Alluvial Clay	Medieval or earlier	Stratigraphy
4		150	Peat	Medieval or earlier	Stratigraphy
4		151	Alluvia Clay	Medieval or earlier	Stratigraphy
4		152	Gravel geology	-	-
5	25	90	Pit	11th-14th century	Pottery
5	26	91	Pit	19th Century or later	Pottery
5		158	Layer	Unknown	None
5		159	Layer	17th century or later	same as 52
5		160	Layer	Post-Medieval	same as 54
5		161	Redeposited tufa	11th century or later	Stratigraphy
5		162	Peat	11th century or later	Stratigraphy
5		163	Redeposited tufa	Pre-14th century	Stratigraphy
5		164	Cellar Wall	Modern	Brick
5		165	Backfill of cellar	Modern	Brick
5		176	Layer	19th century or later	Stratigraphy
5	27	177	Truncation	Modern	Brick
5		180	Sand	Unknown	None
5		181	Gravel geology	-	-
6		166	Layer	Modern	Stratigraphy
6		167	Redeposited tufa	Pre-modern	Stratigraphy

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating Evidence</i>
6		168	Layer	Unknown	None
6		169	Redeposited tufa	Unknown	None
6		170	Peat	Unknown	None
6		171	Alluvia clay	Unknown	None
6		172	Peat	Unknown	None
6		173	Alluvia clay	Unknown	None
6		174	Gravel geology	-	-
6	28	175	Wall	Modern	Brick
6	28	178	Backfill of wall	Modern	Brick

*NB: dates based on 'same as' relationships should be considered tentative.*

**APPENDIX 3:** Medieval pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>F202</i>		<i>F300</i>		<i>F356</i>		<i>F429</i>	
		<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>
	52							1	115
	54					1	5		
12	59	2	21						
5	58	3	25						
6	60	4	36						
11	70	2	12						
25	90			1	10				
	Total	11	94	1	10	1	5	1	115

**APPENDIX 4:** Post-Medieval pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context

Cut	Deposit	<i>Willow pattern</i>		<i>white glazed cream ware</i>		<i>blue and brown slipware</i>		<i>brown and yellow combed slipware</i>		<i>brown glazed red ware</i>		<i>brown glazed cream ware</i>	
		No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt
	51	2	10	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
1	53	2	109	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	50
3	56	4	177	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	43	-	-
4	57	2	1190	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	62	3	430	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
19	81	3	79	1	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
26	91	-	-	1	4	1	28	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	14	1995	2	21	1	28	1	2	1	43	1	50



**APPENDIX 5:** Animal bone occurrence by number and weight (in g) per context.

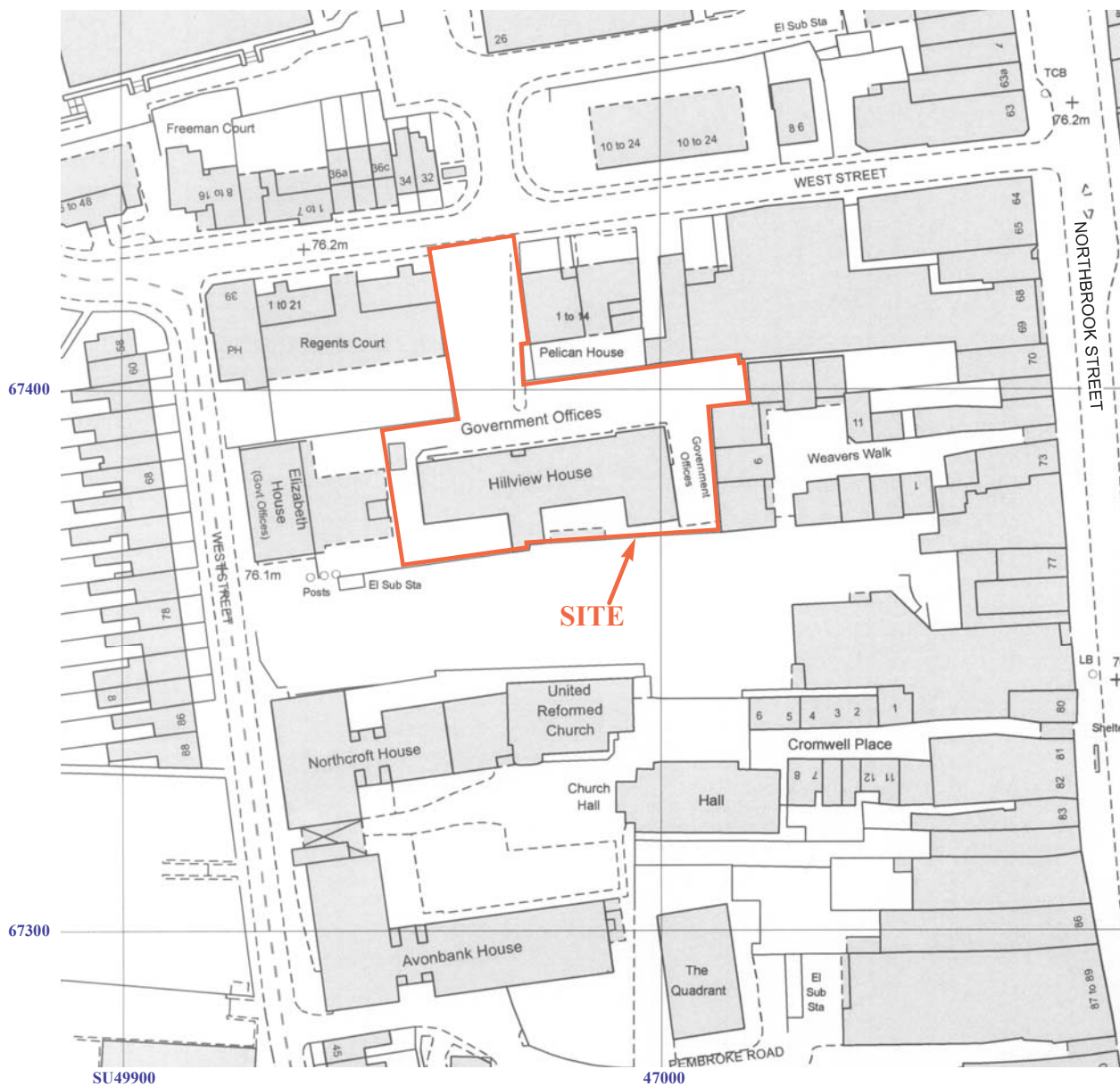
<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Weight</i>
	52	2	71
6	60	1	196
11	70	3	78
12	59	6	82
25	90	1	31
	total	13	458

**APPENDIX 6:** Ceramic building material occurrence by number and weight (in g) per context.

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Weight</i>
	52	4	181
	59	1	19
	69	3	90
	72	2	125
5	58	5	28
6	60	5	26
7	61	1	3
11	70	4	130
19	81	1	1255
25	90	4	77
	total	30	1934







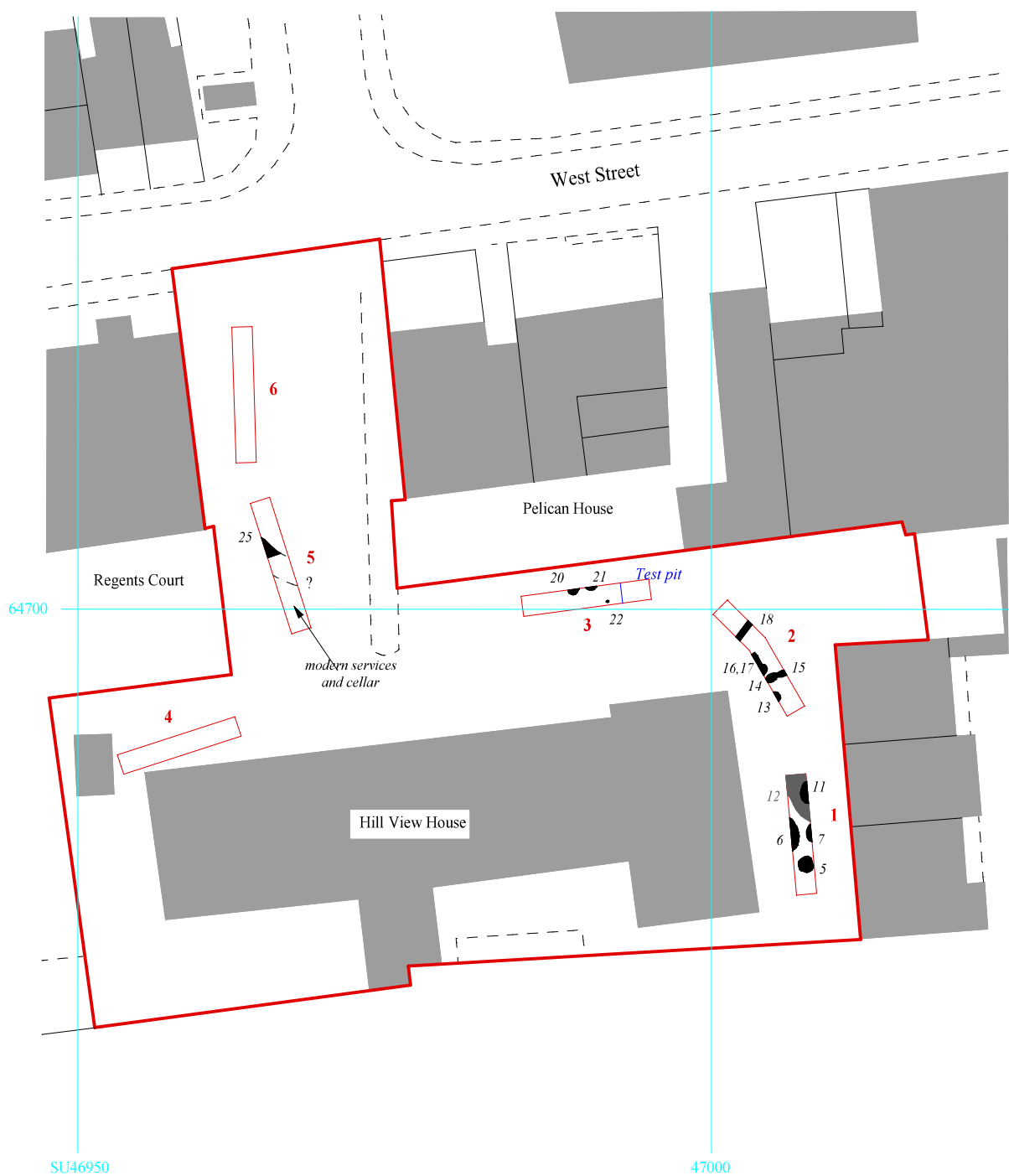
WSN 10/01

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Archaeological evaluation**

Figure 2. Location of site off West Street

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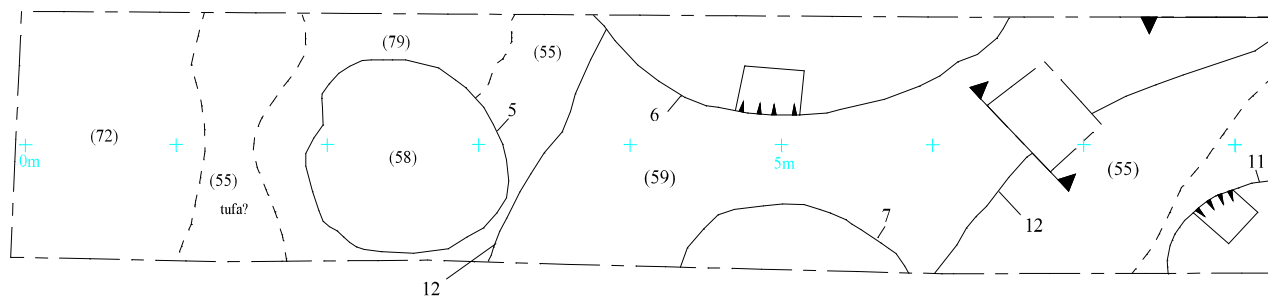
# Hill View House, West Street, Newbury, West Berkshire, 2010 Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 3. Location of trenches showing certain and probable medieval deposits

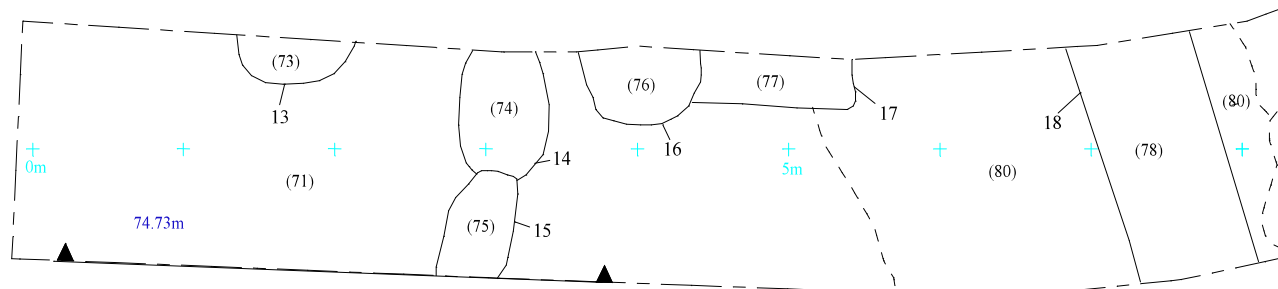
0 25m

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**Trench 1 (beneath layer 54)**



**Trench 2 (beneath layer 67)**



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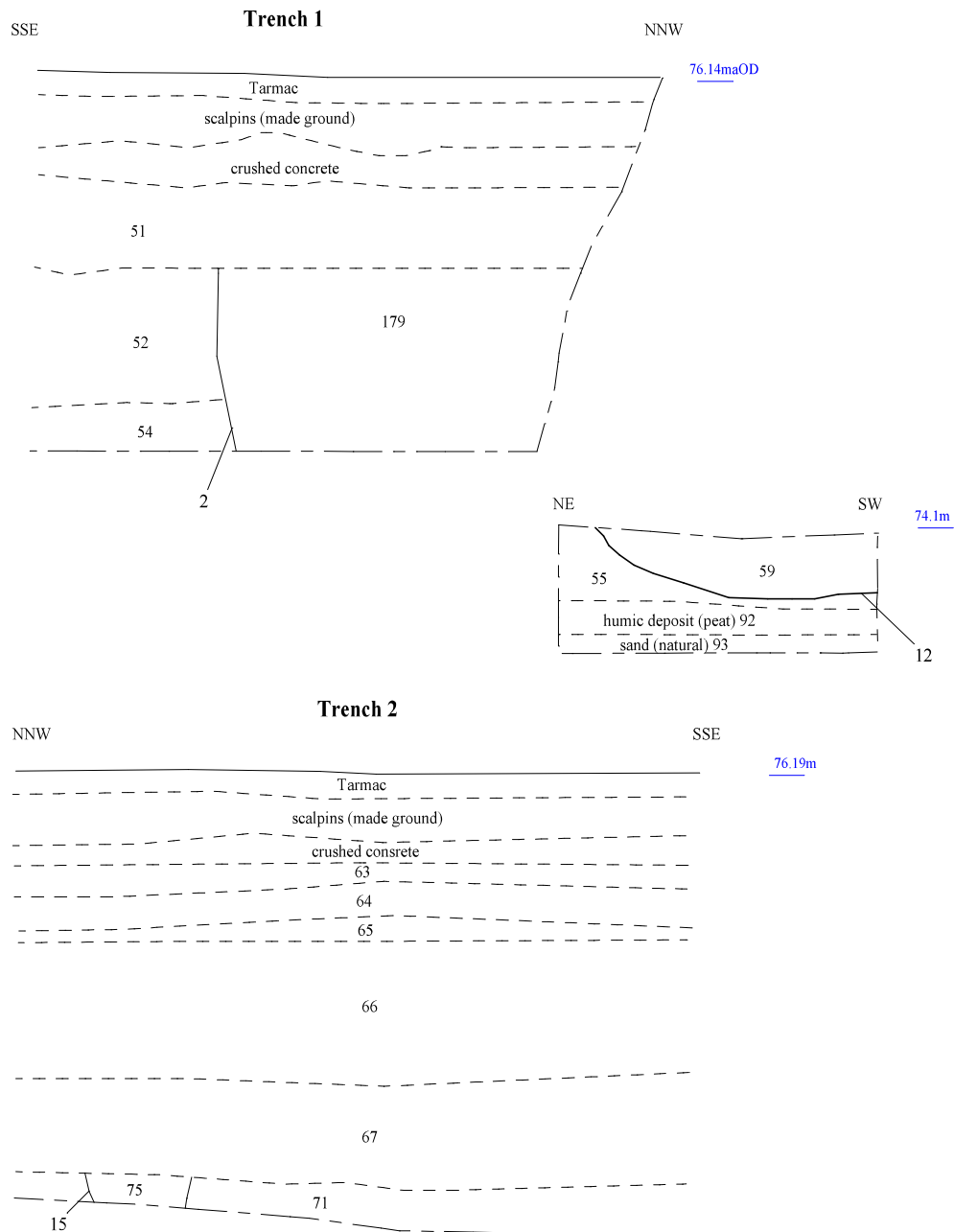
Figure 4. Detail of trenches (below post-medieval layers).



[illegible]

Figure 5. Detail of trenches (below post-medieval layers).





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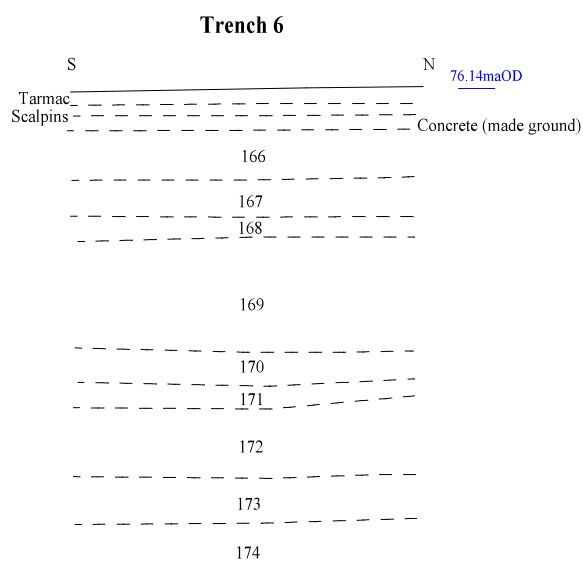
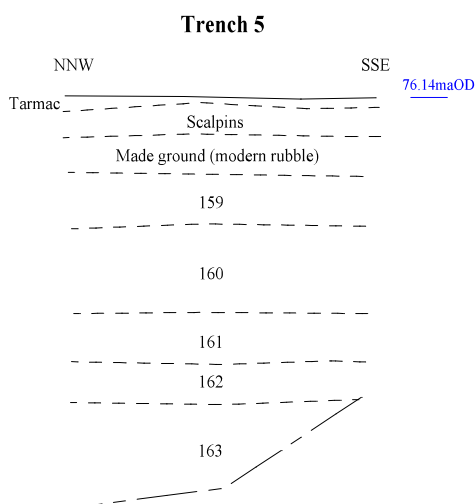
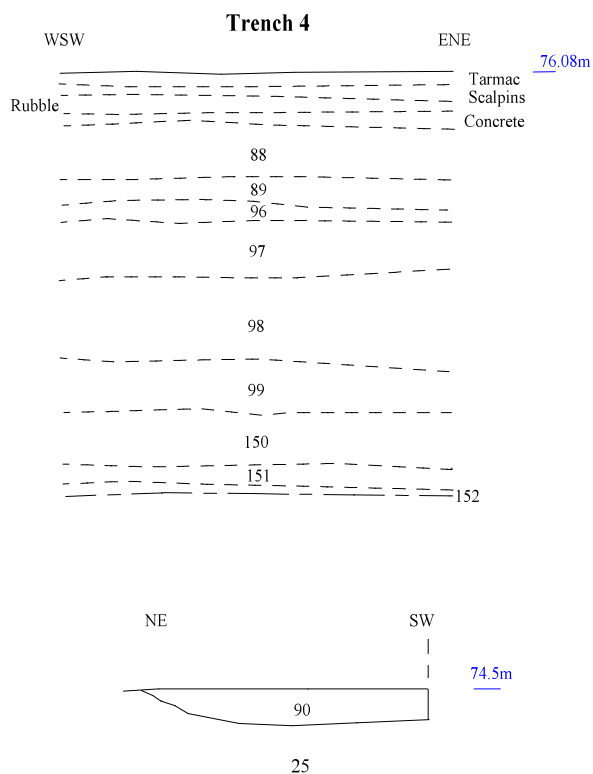
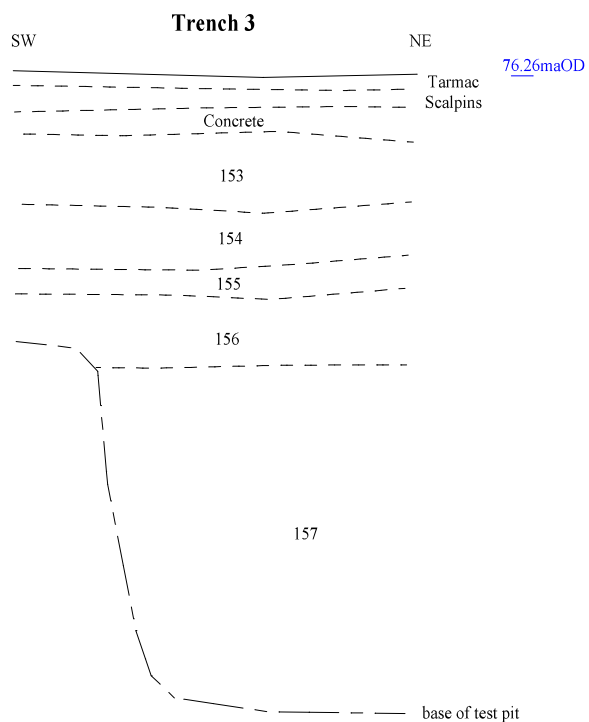
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Figure 6. Sections

0 5m

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Figure 7. Sections



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Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north, Pit 5 in foreground Pit 6 in middle ground to west scales 1m.



Plate 2. Trench 5, Shallow pit 25 (fill 90) cutting redeposited Tufa (163) looking south, scales 0.5m and 0.10m.

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Plate 1 and 2**

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Plate 3. Trench 4, looking east, showing deep peat in possible palaeochannel. Scales: 2m and 1m.



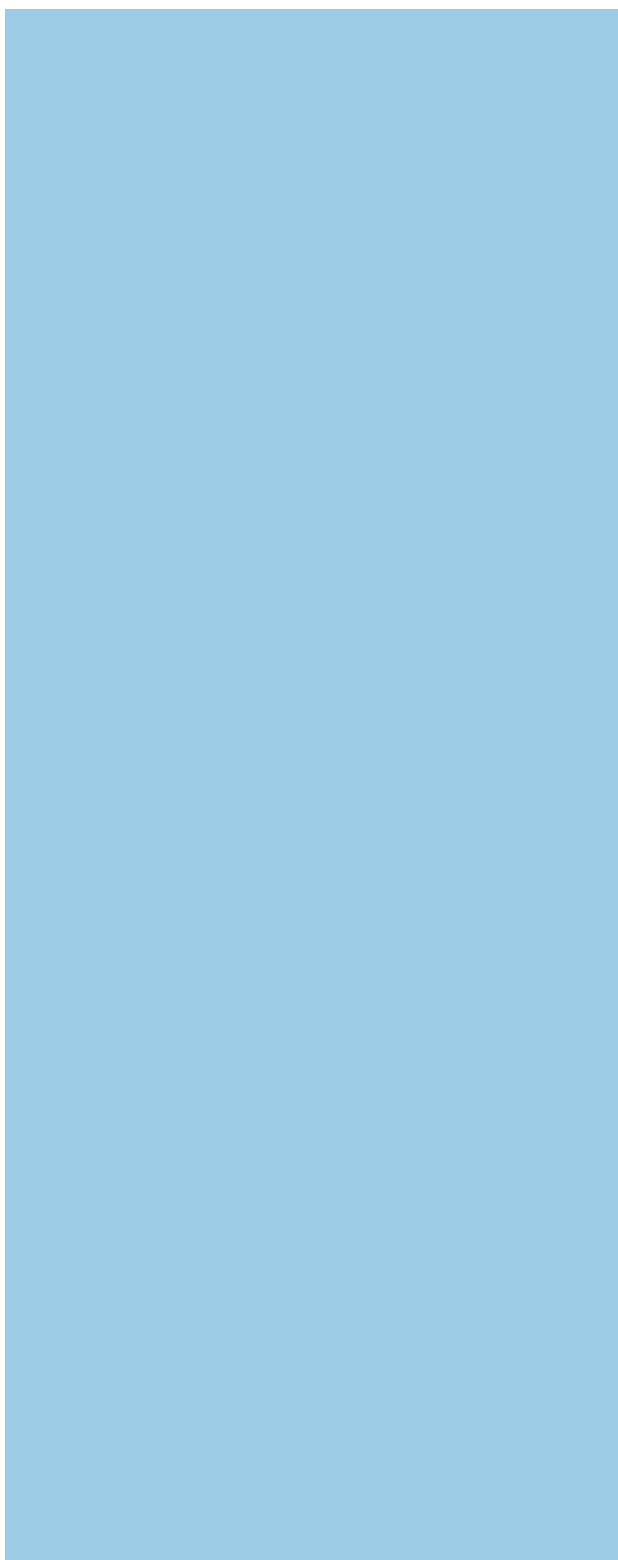
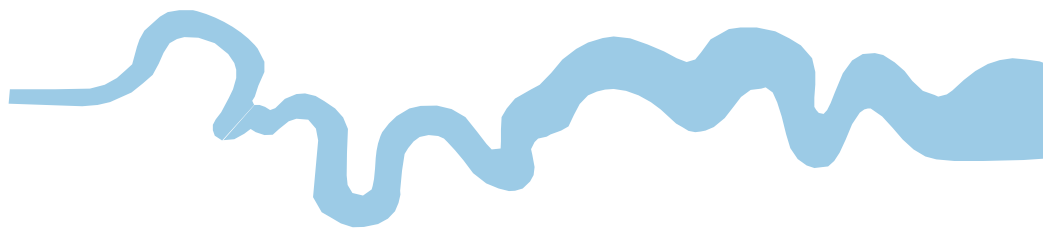
Plate 4. Trench 5, looking south through medieval wall 175 in w.

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Archaeological evaluation**

Plates 3 and 4

## TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late .....	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early .....	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late .....	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early .....	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper .....	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle .....	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower .....	2,000,000 BC
↓	↓



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